



Thumbling's Big Journey

Once there was a kind-hearted peasant couple who longed for a child. Each evening, as they sat by the fire, the husband poking the flames and the wife spinning yarn, they spoke of their wish. "Oh, how I yearn for a child," sighed the man. "Even if they were as tiny as a thumb, we'd love them dearly," his wife added wistfully.

Miraculously, the wife soon gave birth to a child perfect in every way but one – he was no bigger than a thumb! They named him Thumbling and cherished him immensely. Though Thumbling never grew an inch, he was quick-witted and full of life.

One day, as the peasant prepared to go to the forest, Thumbling pleaded to join. "I may be small, but I'm mighty," he insisted. Amused and impressed by his son's bravery, the peasant placed Thumbling in his pocket and off they went.

In the forest, Thumbling helped his father from the safety of a furrow. But then, a giant approached! The father, scared for his son, warned him of the approaching 'bogie'. The giant, fascinated by Thumbling's size, scooped him up and took him home. Thumbling's father was heartbroken, thinking he'd never see his son again.

With the giant, Thumbling grew strong and wise. He uprooted trees with ease, impressing the giant. After several years, the giant returned Thumbling to his father's field. "Look how strong your son has become!" he declared.

Thumbling's father was astounded and initially frightened by his son's strength. But Thumbling proved his worth, plowing fields with his bare hands and performing feats of immense strength. His parents

were amazed but also realized that their home was too small for their mighty son.

Thumbling decided to explore the world. He became an apprentice to a greedy smith, striking a deal to work without pay but to give the smith two blows every fortnight. His strength was so great that he shattered anvils and tools, scaring the smith witless.

He then worked for a cunning bailiff, promising three blows each year in return for his service. Thumbling's feats of strength were unparalleled, terrifying the bailiff who tried unsuccessfully to trick him.

One night, Thumbling even outsmarted thieves at a haunted mill, defending himself and scaring off evil spirits. The next day, the grateful miller offered him riches, but Thumbling refused, content with his adventures.

In the end, the resourceful Thumbling returned home, having proven that even the smallest among us can have the greatest adventures and the bravest heart. He was a hero in his own right, celebrated by his parents and villagers alike.